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GEORGE PROKOFIEFF DE SEVERSKY AND ISABELLE PROKOFIEFF DE SEVERSKY

JULY 1 (legislative day, JUNE 27), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1358]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 1358) for the relief of George Prokofieff de Seversky and Isabelle Prokofieff de Seversky having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to George Prokofieff de Seversky and Isabelle Prokofieff de Seversky. The bill provides for appropriate quota deductions and for the payment of the required visa fees and head taxes.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiaries of the bill are husband and wife, and they are 56- and 52-year-old natives of Russia and Poland, respectively. They are presently stateless. They last entered the United States as visitors on July 20, 1950, and November 17, 1949, respectively. The male beneficiary is a pilot and aeronautical engineer, and is presently acting as a consultant to his brother, Maj. Alexander P. de Seversky.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated June 27, 1952, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

JUNE 27, 1952.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 1358) for the relief of George

Prokofieff de Seversky and Isabelle Prokofieff de Seversky, aliens The bill would grant them permanent residence in the United States.

A memorandum prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service setting forth the facts in the case is attached.

The situation of these aliens is similar to that of many other aliens who desire permanent residence in this country. However, whether the aliens should be exempted from the quota restrictions of the immigration laws involves a question of legislative policy concerning which this Department desires not to make any recommendation.

Sincerely,

A. DEVITT VANECH,
Deputy Attorney General.

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
SERVICE FILES RE GEORGE PROKOFIEFF DE SEVERSKY AND ISABELLE PROKO-
FIEFF DE SEVERSKY, BENEFICIARIES OF S. 1358

Mr. de Seversky is a native of Russia, who was born on December 4, 1895. His wife, Isabelle, is a native of Poland, who was born on February 8, 1900. They claim to be now stateless. They entered the United States on July 20, 1950, and November 17, 1949, respectively, at New York City as visitors and were granted extensions of stay until April 20, 1951, since which time they have resided here without authority.

The aliens state that they are residing at 165 West Eighty-second Street, New York City; that Mr. de Seversky has not been employed since his entry into the United States but is acting as a consultant in aeronautical construction to his brother, Maj. Alexander P. de Seversky. Mr. de Seversky also states that he is a pilot and aeronautical engineer. The aliens have no one dependent upon them for support in the United States.

The late Senator Kenneth S. Wherry, the author of the bill, submitted to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary the following information in connection with the case:

NEW YORK, N. Y., June 14, 1951.

Senator KENNETH S. WHERRY,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR WHERRY: I have just returned from a lecture tour and find your kind letter of May 4, enclosing a communication from Senator McCarran in connection with the bill you so generously introduced for my brother and his wife. I hasten to answer the questions set forth therein:

1. For many years my brother, George de Seversky, represented me, Alexander P. de Seversky, in Europe. Recently he has been following for me the development of a number of European aeronautical inventions which I felt might greatly improve the performance of aircraft and would thus be valuable in our American defense effort. In line with that assignment it became desirable that he come to the United States with the data he had accumulated, to give his personal advice and assistance in reducing those inventions to practice here. Accordingly a request was made that he be granted a visitor's visa to the United States and this was in due form granted to him and to his wife, Isabelle de Seversky.

2. The present activities of George de Seversky consist of assisting me in my aeronautical work by supplying me with the data he accumulated abroad, and advising me in their study and further development.

3. I am compensating George de Seversky for his work, past and current. Should he be granted the right of permanent residence in the United States, his vast background of knowledge of aviation, his rich experience in sales and administration, as well as his competence as a pilot will be valuable assets to me and to the American aviation industry. There is no doubt whatsoever that he will be able to support himself and will not become a public charge.

4. George de Seversky has never engaged in any activity, political or otherwise, injurious to American public interests. On the contrary, he has rendered great service to our country and its interests in many capacities. As European representative of the Seversky Aircraft Corp. of Delaware before the war, then during the war in assistance to the American occupation forces in Europe, he showed himself a true friend of the United States. Recently, as my personal agent, he obtained and provided me with valuable technical information which has enabled me to make additional contributions to our national defense in the aeronautical field.

For some time George de Seversky has wished to emigrate to the United States. This wish was natural since, as a representative of American interests abroad, he met many Americans, made friends among Americans prominent in our national life, and acquired a deep appreciation and admiration of the American way of life.

Until recently he felt that he could better serve the interests of our country as a representative in Europe. With the rapid deterioration of the international political picture, however, his position in Europe became increasingly untenable. The fact that he was a fugitive from communism, his known loyalty to the United States, his unequivocal support of my own professional views—namely that the United States must be invincibly strong—tended to make his continued residence in Europe awkward.

George de Seversky actively fought against communism, as commander of an air squadron of the anti-Soviet forces during the civil war period from 1918 until he fled his native Russia in 1922. Thereafter he continued to oppose communism with all means at his command, to the point where he was often the target of threats against his life by pro-Communist elements. My own vigorous anti-Communist stand, well known throughout the world, tended to aggravate his position in pro-Soviet and anti-American circles. The cumulative effects of these conditions made his migration inevitable, and now would make his return to Europe hazardous.

The permanent settlement of my brother in our country would also be a great relief to me personally. Not only will he be useful in my aeronautical activities, but also his safety will enable me to pursue my patriotic endeavors without the mental strain of knowing that these might endanger my kin.

I firmly believe that George de Seversky will make a useful addition to American society. His broad knowledge of aeronautical matters, his familiarity with European languages, his experience in European affairs, should enable him to make a genuine contribution to our national life, particularly in this critical period. I therefore express the hope that Congress will act favorably on the bill you introduced in his behalf.

As one of the early victims of communism and exiles from Russia, he lived in France on a "Nansen passport." I honestly believe that he deserves sanctuary in the United States, and can repay the hospitality in useful services.

The answer to point five of the questionnaire is: No.

I hope Senator McCarran finds this information satisfactory, but I hold myself in readiness to give any further information he may request.

Sincerely yours,

ALEXANDER P. DE SEVERSKY.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1358) should be enacted.



